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CHALLENGE

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Marchers Vow

Racist Cops Still 'Wanted for Murder'





BROOKLYN, NY, June 30 — Thirty marchers took to busy streets of Church Avenue today, chanting "Racist kkkops means you gotta fight back!" and "NYPD, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" This was the third week PL'ers joined with family, friends and neighbors of Shantel Davis in angry protest against the June 14 racist murder of this young woman by an undercover NYPD detective. "Wanted" posters made from the front cover of CHALLENGE (7 /5) were held high throughout the march. When PL'ers brought them to the corner they were grabbed up quickly. Promises were made to bring many more next Saturday. Marchers also eagerly took CHALLENGES, and many came back for more to make sure their friends got them.

Previous marches to the local kkkop precinct travelled along quiet streets with few bystanders along the way. But this time the march along Church Avenue, a very busy commercial street, was greeted by workers in stores and people on the sidewalks joining in our chants and raising fists in the air in solidarity with the marchers. As we approached the precinct, we marched strong into the street, ignoring the kkkops' attempt to push us into a barricaded pen.

Speeches from local politicians and church leaders asked only for an apology and recognition from NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly. But PLP was there to make it clear that it's not just a few bad kkkops, that the problem is capitalism and that only fighting for communism can end racist police murder and a system that doesn't provide jobs or education for the working class. People in the community see the connections between various attacks on the working class, notably to the demonstration held earlier this week at the nearby Downstate Hospital, facing cutbacks and layoffs. One friend of the Davis family, when talking with a PL'er, realized that if the "brotherhood" of kkkops is always protecting each other and covering for murder after murder, then "something much bigger has to change." PLP will continue to participate in this fight against police attacks on the working class.

On Saturday, July 7, those who have been fighting against the Bronx police murder of Ramarley Graham will be joining the march in Flatbush. Join us.✪

BRONX, NY — The family of Ramarley Graham and the working-class community here continue to fight the racist NYPD over the execution of this young man on February 2nd, 2012. The KKKop, Richard Haste, has been indicted on a ridiculous 2nd degree manslaughter charge. The trial is set to begin on September 13th. The last of the weekly vigils for Ramarley will take place on July 19th and all workers and students are encouraged to attend. (The vigils take place at 6:00 PM on East 229th street between White Plains and Barnes, in the Bronx.)

One of the chants that rings out during our weekly vigils and marches is "No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police!" This chant reflects the incredible anger and vigilance in the community over this racist murder. At the same time, it reflects the optimism that many have that "justice" will be served. As we have rooted ourselves deep in the struggle here, PLP members have probed the notion of "justice" that the community yearns for.

The sad, racist history suggests that the killer Haste will go free. The courts and "justice" system do not stand apart from the cops in their role as protectors of the capitalist system. They both exist to maintain the racism and exploitation that capitalism demands. After all, the courts have been a stopping-point for millions of young black and Latino youth on their way to prison, victims of the racist War on Drugs. (For more information, see Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*).

Most brutal, racist cops are never made to pay a price for their actions. In White Plains, NY, the cops who murdered a 68-year-old retired black Marine, Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr., were not even indicted. Even when indictments are handed down, cops are usually acquitted. The community knows this history and has been cautious about raising hopes for a conviction.

PL'ers have been asking this question: Even if Haste is somehow amazingly convicted, will this be "justice?" Will the 47th precinct (where Haste was stationed) close up and stop its notoriously racist practices? Will racist police brutality be a thing of the past? Will cops stop murdering black and Latino youth? Police brutality is the sharp edge of a racist capitalist system. Will racist education, health care and unemployment vanish?

Of course the answer is NO, and although a conviction would be cheered, the courts will never grant the justice that the working class needs. True justice for Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis, Tamon Robinson, Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr. and all the victims of racist police will come when the remains of the capitalist system and racism lie smoldering in the dust of communist revolution.✪

JOHNSTOWN, PA. July 2 — Last week, two white Johnstown KKKops opened fire on a group of unarmed black men, killing one, Rasheed Simms, and seriously wounding another, Lontell King. Though these mad dog cops had no real reason for murdering and wounding these black men, they were placed on paid leave until a so-called investigation could determine if they acted with excessive force — as though killing a guy could be labeled anything else.

The people did not take this lying down. While the local media is attempting to sweep this murder under the rug, on June 30 there was a militant anti-racist, multi-racial protest against the actions of these Killer Kops, calling for justice for the two victims. The wounded man was at the protest and showed his wound to the local news station. One young black man stated that the whole incident was caused by racism and most agreed with him.

Racism is no stranger to this city. It's been reported that the local Klan has nine Klaverns in the Johnstown area. However, anti-racism is no stranger either. Some years ago, when the local Klan attempted to hold a rally in Johnstown's Central Park, they were driven from the park by a group of multi-racial protestors.

Johnstown is not a large city but due to the closing of most steel mills, there aren't many decent-paying jobs. The black community has been especially hard hit. The unemployment rate for black youth is quite high, and the police force is clearly racist.

Two CHALLENGE readers at the rally made the point that incidents like this were the product of growing U.S. fascism. Of course, the killing of black and Latino men by the cops takes place throughout this capitalist-imperialist society. This is all part and parcel of life in the capitalist U.S. It will take a communist revolution led by the PLP to put an end to racism and this sort of racist murder.

Arab Spring Dry Season for Workers in Egypt

When Egypt's working class joined the Arab Spring rebellion last year, it shook up the country's ruling class. Workers in transportation, textiles, and the cement industry, along with those operating the Suez Canal, struck for a living wage and jobs for youth. It was only then that the rulers were forced to pay attention to the rebellion, which helped lead to dictator Hosni Mubarak's ouster. But there was no revolution, because capitalism remained. Political power remained in the hands of the same bosses, in this case the group of generals who also held enormous economic power.

Unfortunately, the uprising lacked communist working-class politics. Consequently, as CHALLENGE said at the time, workers in Egypt would face continued oppression from either Mubarak's pro-U.S. military or the al Qaeda-linked Muslim Brotherhood. That is exactly what happened. Today, after an indecisive Egyptian election, we see the generals and Islamists struggling for power. Neither side represents workers. Just as in Barack Obama vs. Mitt Romney, electoral politics is proving a lethal distraction for our class.

Under capitalism, the bosses as a class control the state apparatus in every country worldwide. When the workers rise in class struggle against the rulers, the latter feel threatened and champion the fraud of reform. But capitalism cannot be reformed. The bosses will never give up their power peacefully. Egypt's Arab Spring proves this, yet again.

Egypt's Internal Dogfight: Free Market vs. State Capitalism

Muslim Brother Mohamed Morsi's dubious "victory" over Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) reflects an enduring bosses' dogfight. As the *Egypt Independent* (EI) reported on February 15:

> *The military trial of Brotherhood members in 2006 to 2007 was only the result of underlying competition between two groups that controlled capital in Egypt, namely between Gamal's group [Mubarak's son] and the Brotherhood. All of those who stood trial were leading businessmen in the Brotherhood, the most important of whom was Khairat al-Shater. Consequently, more than 70 companies owned by the Brotherhood were shut down.*

The primary split in Egypt is between the religious bosses of the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party's (FJP) and the generals who favor state control of the economy. Multi-millionaire Khairat al-Shater, Morsi's top bankroller, owns a string of high-end furniture and carpet shops. The FJP's platform reads in part, "Economic activity is to be conducted in conformance with Islamic market mechanisms, which depend on fair competition...without manipulation or monopoly.... The state will have a decentralized role" (EI, 2/15/12). This free-market outlook has put the Muslim Brotherhood in the crosshairs of Mubarak's generals, who view the state apparatus as their personal ATM and attack the millionaire Muslims.

Generals Are the Victors

The fight goes on. Morsi, Egypt's first "democratically elected" president, is more a figurehead in a government where the military still pulls the main strings. The SCAF dissolved parliament before the elections and claims the right to fill key cabinet posts, including defense and treasury. "Egypt's leading generals ...have emerged as the election's actual victors because they are poised to remain in charge of the country for the foreseeable future" (*New York Times*, 6/30/12). So stated Joshua Stacher, a Kent State professor, who knows a thing or two about the bosses' violent military suppression of dissent. [The U.S. National Guard killed four anti-Vietnam War protesters at Kent State in 1970.]

Egypt's geopolitical significance makes its foreign relations crucial in the sharpening global rivalry among imperialists. U.S. rulers depend on Egypt's compliance to get continued access to the Suez Canal, the passageway for vast amounts of oil and other critical resources. They also need Egypt to reaffirm its commitment to peace with Israel and to refrain from spreading Arab spring unrest into strategic Bahrain or oil-rich Saudi Arabia. To guarantee these imperatives, the U.S. is contributing $1.3 billion in annual aid to Cairo's shaky new military/Islamic regime. The U.S. capitalists cannot feel entirely comfortable, however, with Morsi's election and what it might imply for Egypt's future. "[T]he rise to power of the Brotherhood in the Arab world's most populous nation would unnerve Gulf Arab monarchies which have managed to avoid being swept away by an Arab Spring that has also toppled leaders in Tunis, Libya and Yemen" (*Reuters*, 6/18/12).

But so far so good for U.S. rulers, at least for now. In his inauguration speeches, Morsi vowed to abide by international agreements regarding the Suez Canal and Israel and declared that Egyptians "do not export revolution." Morsi also supports the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad, Iran's and Russia's anti-U.S. stooge.

Anthony Cordesman, who leads military strategizing at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a top U.S. ruling-class think tank, said: "In the near term, it seems unlikely that the election will have a major impact on U.S. and Egyptian relations; the Egyptian military remains too strong, there is no legislature, and the new Muslim Brotherhood president will concentrate on domestic issues" (*Associated Press*, 6/24/12). However, Cordesman added, "The midterm is far more uncertain and the long term is totally unpredictable."

Washington Fears A Cairo-Teheran Alliance

Bearing out such unpredictability, Iran's Fars news agency quoted Morsi as saying that a closer relationship with Tehran would create a "strategic balance" in the region, according to *Voice of America* (6/25/12). And the Brotherhood's al Qaeda ties remain problematic. Mohamed Atta, ringleader of the 9/11 massacre, hailed from Egypt. Jonathan Evans, head of Britain's MI5 (the British FBI), noted that "would-be jihadis are known to be receiving training in the likes of Libya and Egypt, mirroring what has already happened in Yemen and Somalia" (London Telegraph, 6/25/12). As Afghan workers know only too well, U.S. rulers and their allies consider any nation harboring al Qaeda to be fair game for full-scale invasion.

The anti-worker dogfight between two groups of capitalists in Egypt is what happens when communists are not in the leadership of a political movement. A rebellion quickly deteriorates into just another settlement between two opposing factions of bosses. State power never changes hands. Regardless of which faction wins, exploitation of the working class continues.

It is only when communists lead a working-class uprising, with the goal of smashing the state power of the capitalist ruling class, that true revolution occurs. This is why Progressive Labor Party enters and leads class struggle: to win workers to see that only by destroying the bosses' state power, profits, and exploitation can a workers' society be born. That is the task of PL'ers in all the bosses' mass organizations. Building PLP in the class struggle is the only road to true victory for the working class.✪

OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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Why Articles Are Not Signed

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

Myth of the 'Middle Class'

Obama, alongside his political buddies and the bosses' media, constantly invoke the mythological "middle class" while never mentioning the working class. They are trying to convince workers who earn — or who aspire to earn — $50,000 or $75,000 a year that they are not workers. They want to hide the reality of a working class with its antagonistic relationship with an opposing, parasitic ruling class. The latter controls the means of production and reaps profits from exploiting worker's labor power, the source of all value. Capitalists own; workers create.

Many workers' struggles may have won incomes that enable them to afford a home, a car and a college education for their children, but they have no security under capitalism. Come the next crisis of overproduction and the next wave of mass unemployment, these higher-earning workers promptly get laid off and made homeless. Their "middle-class" life goes up in smoke. One's class is not determined by income, but rather by the source of that income.

Fight Bloodsucking Hospital Bosses', Governor's Mass Cuts



BROOKLYN, June 28 — "This is my hospital! They can't close it!" a patient declared to hundreds of picketing SUNY Downstate Medical Center workers. Workers flooded out of the hospital to join patients and community people for a lunchtime rally against threatened massive layoffs and the possible closing of this central Brooklyn hospital.

Speakers addressed the racist nature of these cuts in a mostly black community where people already lack access to care, and spoke of the damage that the layoffs would do to the community's economic health. It's no coincidence that the cops' racist murder on June 14 of 23-year-old Shantel Davis occurred only blocks from here. Inadequate health care, massive unemployment, and police killings all reflect the capitalists' racist outlook that the lives of black and Latino workers have little or no value.

The Downstate rally was organized by Occupy Wall Street's Healthcare for the 99%, the First Unitarian Church and workers from three unions inside the hospital: United University Professions (UUP), Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), and Public Employees Federation (PEF). These workers mobilized friends and coworkers to get the word out. The three unions' leaders refused to endorse the rally, but all showed up when it was clear that many workers would be there. These misleaders defend the system and work to contain workers' anger. They refuse to mobilize mass action.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo wants to use Brooklyn as a guinea pig to show his bosses in the finance and insurance industries that he can strip healthcare to the bone while shedding workers from the state payroll. One proposal on the table is to move all inpatient care to downtown Brooklyn's Long Island College Hospital (LICH), an institution that has been driven into the ground by its wealthy and powerful Manhattan parent network, Continuum Health Partners. After LICH was acquired by Downstate at fire sale prices in 2010, its workers came under control of a newly created private entity. If Cuomo can prove to the big bosses that he can successfully force these cuts on workers, it could boost his possible bid for the U.S. presidency in 2016.

According to one disturbing idea pushed by state politicians and union officials like Phil Smith, UUP's president, the way to save Downstate is to close LICH. Under capitalism, hospitals are moneymaking entities that compete with each other for insurance dollars. In the face of continual state funding cuts, the heads of various other Brooklyn hospitals would certainly like to see Downstate fold, and to have workers and patients fight with each other. But advocating that workers and patients of other hospitals be left out in the cold is a losing strategy! All hospital workers and patients must unite against all the hospital bosses and their bought-and-paid-for politicians.

Some workers who helped organize the Downstate action were disappointed by the worker turnout. Even so, this was possibly the largest action at Downstate in recent history. It also had the most inter-union, multi-racial, and worker-patient-community unity.



Speakers from Progressive Labor Party tied the fight against school cutbacks, racist police murders, and imperialist wars to the struggle at Downstate. They pointed out that while we must fight each attack against us, our victories will be small and temporary as long as the capitalist ruling class controls the media, the government and the purse strings. Become a regular reader of CHALLENGE to learn how we are aiming to win the ultimate fight against these bloodsuckers!✪

Protestors Blast Boston Globe's Racist Attacks



BOSTON, May 23 — Faculty, staff, and alumni of Roxbury Community College (RCC) demonstrated today at the Boston Globe headquarters, charging the newspaper with reporting racist lies to discredit the only predominantly black, Latino, and immigrant college in Massachusetts. The action was organized by PL'ers and friends. Our signs read: "Boston Globe: Racist Mouthpiece for the 1%" and "Boston Globe: Leading the Charge to Attack Public Education." Many hundreds of motorists saw our signs and dozens honked in support of our anti-racist message.

Over the previous two weeks, the Globe had printed several columns, articles, and editorials slamming the college administration for mismanaging financial aid for students, underreporting crime statistics, and refusing to cooperate with businessmen who wanted to start a job-training program at the college.

While there is truth to some of these charges, the long history of mismanagement at RCC is the fault of bosses much higher up than the college's president, Terrence Gomes, who is retiring under pressure. It reflects the racist neglect of working-class students by the capitalist class in Massachusetts and its servants in the state government. Decades of mismanagement and corruption at RCC has damaged generations of students and made the college more vulnerable to cutbacks.

The timing and manner of the Globe's attack illustrates how all capitalist media are tools of the same bosses who want to transform the community colleges into job-training centers that serve local corporations. Driven by the global economic crisis to maximize profits, the capitalists need all their schools, from kindergarten through college, to serve the economy more directly and efficiently. They need rigid educational tracks to produce a small number of highly skilled professionals, a larger number of workers with narrow skill training, and another large number to fill the ranks of the unemployed and the military. In line with this plan, some schools will be eliminated and others restructured to give workers less.

Although most RCC faculty and staff are highly committed to fighting for students' education, many have illusions about the role of the administration and the college itself. They need to understand the class role of RCC as a capitalist institution that helps to perpetuate racist inequalities. President Gomes has made close to $200,000 a year to serve the needs of local capitalists. One important part of the president's job is to maintain social control by pretending to represent the interests of students, faculty, and staff.

Because of liberalism, which obscures class differences, many faculty and staff side with "good" bosses like Gomes. These alliances render workers unable to fight in our own interests. As capitalism descends more and more deeply into crisis, and rulers build fascism to hang onto their power, they rely on liberalism to keep our class divided and weak.

The liberals will parade before the workers as the "peace" wing of the ruling class and offer themselves as the lesser evil to vote for, as against the more open fascists. The liberals then turn around and enact exactly what the bosses need — president Johnson expanding the war in Vietnam and Obama's post-election 30,00 troop increase in Afghanistan, among others.

When the newspaper articles first appeared, many faculty thought that defending the college and its administration was an anti-racist response. The demonstration at the Boston Globe presented a pro-working class alternative to the liberal line of uniting with the administration. PL'ers at RCC need to work more consistently to build a unified base for faculty, staff, and students while exposing the dangers of reforms.✪

Mass Action Marks School Occupation



UPDATE, July 3 — Oakland kkkops and school security officers invaded Lakeview Elementary School at 4 this morning, arresting two occupiers and ousting the rest (more next issue).

OAKLAND, July 1 — The occupation of Lakeview Elementary School has continued for 16 days (see CHALLENGE 7/4/12). Tonight, more than a hundred occupiers, parents, students and supporters held a "16 Candles" community potluck and a screening of *The Inconvenient Truth Behind Waiting for Superman*.

Here are the demands the occupation has made on the Oakland Unified School District:

- Superintendent Tony Smith must reopen all five closed schools or resign;
- Keep all neighborhood schools open;
- Stop union-busting attacks against the Oakland Education Association and other school worker unions;
- Repudiate the crippling debt and interest payments imposed by the state of California on the Oakland school district after the district went into receivership;
- Fully fund quality public education for all.

PLP in the Mix

Progressive Labor Party is participating in the occupation and organizing support for all actions. During extensive debates over the five demands, we are learning from others. Some parents and teachers are focused on short-term goals but agree with our broader analysis. For example, PLP members and others have argued that Superintendent Tony Smith is not our main target; whether he resigns or stays, attacks on public school students and teachers will continue.

The likeliest path for winning reform demands is not through sympathetic school board members, but by mobilizing workers and parents through the occupation. In any case, the only long-term solution to the perpetual crisis in education worldwide is a communist revolution. Only then will schools serve the needs of the working class.

Growing Militancy

A daily People's School at the occupied Lakeview site offers classes for children on social justice, science and gardening, art (including posters), as well as exercise and free meals. There has been a lot of discussion and planning about how to organize the school, which is running well—despite threats by the Oakland School Police Department (OSPD) to evict the occupiers for trespassing.

Even as the occupation movement fights to reopen the five closed schools, many involved also want to inject a new style of education within these buildings. The teaching group is working hard to develop alternative curricula that help kids become critical thinkers about capitalist society. Their goal is education based on equality and the development of all students to their full potential, with a shared responsibility for the well-being of the collective.

While PL'ers understand that this goal cannot be fully realized under capitalism, we see glimmers of communist consciousness in working with teachers, parents and activists at Lakeview. We've learned that running a school is hard work, with many opportunities to learn, teach, and take action.

Children from the People's School recently led a march and mobilization of more than 250 to the school site. (See photo.) The march was built by the continuing Lakeview occupation and resulting media coverage, along with activism by Occupy Oakland and mass leafleting at the school and in surrounding neighborhoods. PLP posters about capitalism and communism caught the attention of many, as did our chant: "For Education and Kids to Grow, Capitalism Has Got to Go." The following week we joined a rally at the Oakland Board of Mis-Education.

We distributed many CHALLENGEs at these events, mostly through agitation but some to individuals we've met through the struggle. The headline "Wanted for Racist Murder" (7/4/12) struck a nerve in Oakland. One non-profit group mobilized the Board of Education meeting to protest the OSPD's racist treatment of students, and in particular the school police murder last year of 20-year-old Raheim Brown, Jr. outside Skyline High School while he was attending a dance. In May, Skyline student Alan Blueford, 18, was gunned down by Oakland city police a month before he was set to graduate.

Students and organizers were interested in the CHALLENGE reports of other cop killings in New York. At the rally, an Oakland parent summed up one aspect of the education system: "Public schools are a farm team to prepare young adults for the prison system."

A Lose-Lose Proposition

PLP sees capitalist education as part and parcel of the ruling-class effort to marginalize the working class of the future, especially students from the poorest neighborhoods. While we are fighting now for multi-racial unity and equality in the schools and curriculum, we need to create a revolutionary communist movement to destroy the capitalists' institutions that control education, culture, media, and work.

The bosses use schools to impose social control to make capitalism as natural as the air we breathe. Institutional racism takes the form of segregated schools and revolving-door buildings and teachers. After the capitalists have guaranteed that these schools will fail, they move to close them, leaving black, Latino, and immigrant children with long bus rides to a new school.

In a period of capitalist economic crisis, students are channeled into an economy with little opportunity for upward mobility. A few might make it to professional or tech jobs, but most end up in non-union, low-wage jobs, the informal economy, prison, the military, or on the unemployment line. Racist education policies further stratify the future working class into competing subgroups while blaming dropouts for their failure to succeed in the capitalist economy. For the working class, the bosses' schools are a lose-lose proposition.✪

DC Transit Workers, Riders Unite

'Lower Fares, Higher Wages, Make the Bosses Pay!'

WASHINGTON, DC, June 28 — Over 60 protestors including bus drivers, transit riders, workers from other unions, and Occupy activists rallied and picketed outside the board meeting of the DC Metro transit system. The rally demanded cancellation of the planned fare hike for riders and the racist pay freeze and benefit cuts for the predominantly black workforce. Chanting, "lower fares, higher wages, make the bosses pay", demonstrators condemned the bosses for putting the cost of the system on the backs of the working class.

The transit system makes billions of dollars for the businesses (like the Verizon Center, the Nationals' baseball stadium, and dozens more law firms and big office buildings) located near subway stops. It makes economic activity possible in the city as a whole. So why shouldn't the real estate developers, big businessmen, and banks pay for something that makes profits for them? Because they run the government and will do everything they can to maximize their profits at our expense.

Metro is trying to play off riders against the union, blaming the wages, pensions and benefits of workers for the fare hikes, and then turning around and telling Metro workers that they should support the fare increase so they can be paid. But even under capitalism, most transit systems don't rely on the farebox for their operating costs. In D.C., 70% of the operating costs of the system come from fares, a national record!



At the rally today, several Metro workers took their first step in getting involved in conscious class struggle. All of the Metro workers as well as most of the other demonstrators received copies of CHALLENGE, learning more about the long-term struggle for revolution that will take from the bosses everything that the bosses have stolen from the labor of our class. All of the demonstrators were pleased to see the unity in life shown by the rally, and pledged to continue the struggle together.✪

Pakistan: Enraged Workers Strike, Burn Government Buildings

PAKISTAN, June 28 — Prolonged daily power outages in almost every big city and small town have provoked widespread violent protests and strikes by angry workers. They have set fire to government-owned buildings, property, vehicles and offices belonging to the Water and Power Development Authority.

Almost every day the protestors are besieging grid stations, blocking trains, closing roads, pelting the police with stones and fearlessly facing attacks from cops wielding batons and hurling tear gas. They have destroyed traffic signals and attacked shops which do not close down.

When angry workers burned a few homes of ministers and ruling-class-elected representatives, the latter's personal guards and police shot four demonstrators to death and injured dozens of others.

Workers staged a sit-down outside the Guddu Thermal Power House in Sindh province, chanting against the bosses for their negligence, lousy working conditions, lack of necessary tools and corruption, all of which caused the death of a co-worker. The security commander — a politically influential person affiliated with the ruling party — demanded the workers end their protest and chanting. After trading hot words with the workers, he left for his office. Later, his brother, accompanied by some gunmen, arrived and killed five workers on the spot, severely injuring 14 others.

Responding to this brutal act, workers shut down the plant and organized a huge march, demanding the arrest of all the culprits, including the security commander and the managing director of the power house. Workers are fuming and are organizing a city-wide strike in Guddu and its surroundings.

The energy crisis, caused by the bosses' corruption, incompetence and lack of planning, is forcing layoffs, as well as riding roughshod over workers' daily lives. Workers are angry over the poverty, unemployment, exploitation and oppression. Recognizing their enemies, they believe these bosses are responsible for all their miseries; and want to get rid of the bosses. But they do not yet have the leadership which can organize their anger and militancy towards an international communist revolution.

Comrades and friends of PLP are trying to expose the bosses and explaining that voting for one bosses' party or another won't change their lives but will continue their misery.

At the Guddu Power House demonstration, our comrade and some friends delivered revolutionary speeches and asked the workers to organize against the viciousness of the capitalist system and the brutal bosses, and for a communist revolution. They condemned the puppet union leadership, explaining that PLP is the true party of the working class, fighting for a society run by our class, for a world without exploitation, poverty, inequality, injustice and torture — a communist world!✪

ConEd Workers Turn Lockout into Strike



NEW YORK CITY, July 1 — Electricity provider ConEd has locked out over 8,000 workers as it tries to maximize its profits by freezing workers' wages and "modernizing" pensions. As we go to press workers are picketing around the clock against the bosses' use of 5,000 managers as scabs. One of them has already gotten burned.✪

How Obamacare Makes Workers Sick

The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the core provisions of President Barack Obama's health care reform is no victory for the working class. The mandate forcing people to buy insurance on a for-profit basis is a bonanza for the insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs). These companies will now have tens of millions of new customers from whom to reap enormous profits. The same is true for the pharmaceutical and hospital industries that will continue to rob the general population with over-priced drugs and tests, many of them unnecessary. The more money they rake in, the less workers will have for basic needs.

The money to pay for health reform will, in effect, come from a tax on the entire working class. This was the basis for the rulers' new hero, Chief Justice John Roberts, to become the deciding vote in declaring Obamacare constitutional. Congress has the power to tax, he said, and tax it will. Not everyone will be covered by the reformed health care system, of course. Twelve million undocumented workers and their children will remain unprotected, facing Obama's policy of mass deportations, upwards of 1.4 million and counting.

Workers Have No Stake in Elections

The main beneficiaries of the Supreme Court's decision may be Obama, whose bid to retain the White House in this November's election gained a needed boost, and the finance capitalists who back him as their imperialist and international assassin of choice. But whether the Democrats or Mitt Romney and the Republicans come out on top, workers have no stake in either of these ruling-class candidates or in capitalism's electoral process. The bosses' election circus is designed to enforce the profit system that heaps only mass unemployment, racism, sexism, poverty and war on the backs of the working class. No doubt the medical industrial complex will use this reform to squeeze workers even more, with mergers swallowing smaller competitors and leading to even more layoffs.

Racist discrimination imposes a special burden on black and Latino workers, who suffer from either a doubly high rate of joblessness and lower wages for those who manage to find work. Racism enables the bosses to reap hundreds of billions of dollars from these wage and job differentials, while dividing and weakening the working class's efforts in trying to fight these attacks. Capitalists need us only healthy enough to create profits, fight their imperialist wars for them, and bear the children the bosses can exploit in the future. These are the narrow limits of Obama's concern for the masses' well-being.

U.S. Bosses in Dogfight

Obamacare's troubled progress and narrow 5-4 margin in the Supreme Court reflects sharpening conflict among U.S. bosses. The needs of U.S. imperialists who must deal with sharpening global rivalry are not always aligned with the needs of the drug, insurance and HMO bosses, who make their profits primarily from domestic exploitation rather than imperialist wars.

At the top of Obama's imperialist agenda is his need to rein in runaway medical expenditures and thereby fund his masters' war efforts. Second is the imposition of fascist discipline on all capitalists, great and small. Third is fostering patriotism by making workers dependent upon and loyal to a "benevolent" U.S. government.

This isn't the first time the liberal imperialist wing has tried to advance health care reform as a political strategy. Ted Kennedy made it the centerpiece of his aborted 1980 White House bid. Bill and Hillary Clinton pushed hard for it in Clinton's first term but were thwarted by the insurance and drug companies. Today it's the politicians fronting for the domestically oriented bosses who balk at the more centralized control that Obamacare represents. And despite the Supreme Court ruling, the bosses' internal fight is far from over.

Obama's inability to rally broad unity for his mandates is a disappointment to liberal, imperialist Brookings Institute think-tankers, who shed crocodile tears for the uninsured while exposing the fact that Obamacare is not all what it seems:

> *[B]eneath the surface, the ruling is less liberal than it looks....First, the Medicaid ruling limits the power of the federal government to encourage states to extend medical care. This gives states the authority to resist national efforts to expand health insurance....Second, although Chief Justice Roberts supported the constitutionality of the individual mandate, his opinion limited the ability of the federal government to regulate interstate commerce through tactics other than taxes. This part of the decision will restrict the ability of future Congresses to regulate commerce.... The ultimate result of this decision will be that fewer uninsured will be covered than thought by health care reformers* (Brookings website, 6/29/12).

The liberal reformers touting Obamacare may deceive some into thinking the U.S. is on the road to a single-payer healthcare system, a la Canada, which seems to be less costly and more efficient. In reality, however, Canada's system is paid for by higher taxes on the working class as a whole — not so different from Obamacare, with the difference that U.S. workers have the added burden of paying for the profits of the drug, insurance, and hospital corporations.

Only Communism Can Provide for Workers' Health

Only a communist system, one that puts workers' needs first, can provide health care that benefits the whole working class. Without bosses and profits, workers — who produce all value in society — can allocate that value to their class's collective health. Without a parasitic ruling class, health care will be distributed on a communist basis: from each according to their commitment to the social good, and to each according to their need. This is what Progressive Labor Party fights for in organizing for a communist revolution. Join us!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



PL'ers rally outside National Educators' Budget Meeting (more next issue).

'We must stand up and take back our streets!'

There's a fine line between justice and murder. Legally justice is the proper administration of the law; the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals under the law. The dictionary definition for murder is the crime of killing another person deliberately, not in self-defense or with any other extenuating circumstance recognized by law.

Time and time again we've watched police nationwide violate our rights and gun down our youth. NY cops hide behind their badges as excuses to kill innocent young men and women with no more penalty than a police desk job or termination after drawn-out legal procedures.

The most recent act of deadly force occurred when [a black] NYPD Det. Atkins gunned down a good friend of mine, Shantel Davis. As someone who knew them both, I know this is a gross lack of judgment by the NYPD for allowing a bigot such as Atkins to remain on the force long enough to kill an unarmed individual. I've had several encounters with Atkins before stop-and-frisk was an "issue." I was interrogated, searched and taunted with no more probable cause then my skin color and gender.

Atkins is not alone! Even though he's solely responsible for murdering Shantel Davis, he's just one of the many NYPD's ticking time bombs. We workers pay the salary of the same officers who turn around to harass, illegally jail and gun down our children and grandchildren.

Don't wait until they kill your child. Stand up before the NYPD murders someone else's child. It's a vicious cycle in our community where our recurring encounters with police have become so normal that people ignore the injustices and dismiss it as routine.

Why is this so widely accepted in the urban communities? Why does your zip code and skin color determine how much police interaction you will have, whether engaged in illegal activities or not? We rely on politicians and TV personalities to broadcast our feelings of disrespect and hopefulness but when will we, as a whole, stand up for ourselves, our rights and our children's future?

We've asked for equality long enough and still face some of the same barriers we've been fooled into believing we've broken down. They kill our unarmed youth and then flood the media with rap sheets and allegations as if to justify their actions. They never flood the media with allegations and infractions of the officers whom they stand by so firmly.

We can no longer rely on department "investigations" and Internal Affairs to produce the truth. We must get the answers ourselves. We must educate our friends and family on what police are and aren't allowed to do to us and lift the veil which has been placed over society's face and led us to believe these police actions are justified. I've been pulled over and harassed while I watch countless people walk past as if nothing was happening. We need to stand up as a community and take back our streets!

There's no reason why, in 2012, we should still be facing a racism issue in a country that calls itself the "Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave." This is definitely the land of the brave because when you're a young black male growing up in these inner city neighborhoods you're brave for even walking these streets, already knowing that the police will target you, crime or no crime. My friend was gunned down with no explanation no apologies and no remorse.

Racism no longer confines itself to Caucasians hating African-Americans. This disease has buried itself deep within our community and has caused a sick self-hatred like no other. I don't know exactly Atkins' nationality but I know his skin color was as dark as mine. They've drilled it into our heads that we're a threat to society and we in turn gun down and fear our own brothers and sisters.

We've came a long way when it comes to white people and racism. You even see Caucasians more actively involved in the movement than we ourselves. Now the tables have turned and we're now forced to deal with racism amongst our own brothers and sisters in our community.

It starts with us. We, as the younger generation who deal with the struggles everyday, must become more active in the fight for equality. If we do not unify and stand together as one, there's no way we can defeat the demons we face on a daily basis.

STOP relying on other people and authority figures to do the work. We blame the system and speak of hopefulness but we are the ones that have the voice and ability to change the system. This is a subject I can speak about all day, but I end this chapter with a question: What will you do to change the wrongs around you?

Anti-racist Youth

May Day: Salvador PL'ers Expose FMNL Traitors

On May Day in El Salvador there were two marches: one led by the pseudo-leftists, the FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front), and another led by angry students and unions such as teachers and health care workers who currently fight to get out from under the FMNL's influence, but still retain some socialist nostalgia.

PLP participated in the march to honor the memory of the workers killed by the bosses in Chicago in 1886. But we also marched with the rest of the working class struggling against — and to get rid of — capitalist exploitation.

PLP organized 116 comrades into four collectives to coordinate agitation, distributing DESAFIO and 5,000 fliers which condemned the capitalist massacres and wars forced on us. The so-called leftist unions only asked for reforms. The FMLN marched as if this were a religious procession, but simultaneously acted as cops.

One FMLN member — a former major of Soyapango, Carlos Ruiz, called "the little devil" — took our literature and then insulted our comrade. This only mirrors the FMLN's service to the capitalists' interests.

College students used loudspeakers to condemn this element. Our literature, including 100 CHALLENGES, was well received by the workers, indicating the great potential we have and the fact that we have much more to do.

The workers in El Salvador, as in the rest of the world, have no other alternative than to organize ourselves in the PLP to fight for a communist world, one that hoists only one red flag — we are one international working class.

For this we need real communist discipline as well as to break with capitalist illusions, with the individualism and selfishness which the bosses' propaganda has used to fragment us for decades.

We must break the chains that imprison us — wars, fascism, borders, sexism, racism, nationalism — to fight all the evils of this murderous system in every corner of the world. We have the potential to organize the international working class, to teach our children to turn their guns against the bosses, not against their working-class sisters and brothers. Join the PLP.

Comrade from El Salvador

Obama's Minimum Wage Fakery: Starvation, Inc.

The U.S. federal government defines the "federal poverty level" (FPL) as the "minimum amount of gross income that a family needs for food, clothing, transportation, shelter and other necessities." FPL is currently set by the Census Bureau — which is part of the Department of Commerce, part of Obama's cabinet — at $23,050 per year for a family of four (about $11 per hour). The administration is required to update it annually according to rising inflation, but it is based only on an estimate from the food budget for minimal nutrition without taking into account how other necessities have risen in cost.

Contrast this with something called "self-sufficiency wages," which is based on the amount needed to provide the necessities without any government aid, whether that aid is in the form of tax credits, welfare payments, food stamps, Medicaid, public housing, child care, or any other subsidy. You might think those would be about the same figure, but you would be wrong.

A professor in the University of Washington School of Social Work, Diana Pearce, has calculated self-sufficiency wages based on most of the 50 states in the U.S. She has come up with figures for families of various sizes and in various states and counties. For example, in Tucson, a family of four needs $49,563 per year ($23.83 per hour). The federal minimum wage is $7.65 per hour, which doesn't even meet their own $11-per-hour level needed to barely rise out of their definition of poverty. Therefore it takes more than twice the FPL wage to live. You are not defined by the feds as impoverished unless you make less than half that amount.

In other words, Congress and the Obama administration (and all administrations) don't give a bloody damn if you starve to death or live on the street or have to leave your young kids home alone while you work. More than half the families in the U.S. live on less than $49,563 per year, the self-sufficiency wage. That is, more than half of the workers in the U.S. are actually impoverished, while the super rich grow ever richer with the help of Obama and the Congress. Can anyone doubt that we need to overthrow this system and replace it with one run by the working class?

Saguaro Rojo

Meeting CHALLENGE Seller 'Is highlight of my week'

Having the privilege of being one of the CHALLENGE sellers at the recent Unitarian convention, I encountered mostly friendly responses. There was one article about the main topic this year: Immigration Reform, which seemed a good idea others might emulate — making sure an article pertinent to any convention's topic, be it a union, the MLA (Modern Language Association) or any national health association, is in the paper during the convention.

While selling this year, several times I indicated it was a communist paper and usually got "interesting" as a response, but nothing as outstanding as one in particular: a young woman delegate listened as I pointed out a few articles, ending with, "and this is a Communist newspaper."

She stared at me very intently, "So you are a communist and a Unitarian?" I said yes, and added that many of the principles were the same.

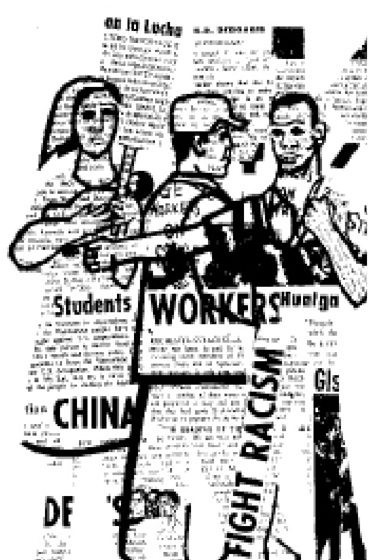
Her face became so serious that I had no idea what she was thinking, and I became a little apprehensive. After a long moment she said, "This is the highlight of my week, meeting you." She took my information gladly, however was reluctant to give me hers. She did say that she would be in touch. I think she will.

A Unitarian Communist

Immigration Lawyers Confront Obama's Racist Scheme

continued from page 8

discussion on how to combat anti-immigrant legislation in states like Alabama and Arizona. Not surprisingly, the audience microphones were turned off and no questions were allowed. The main guest speaker was the racist attorney general of Utah, who demanded that the audience write letters to congressmen, organize "lobby" days at state capitols and ask big business to help immigrants, the same useless tools that haven't worked for years. The Utah attorney general bragged that his state's law is "anti-immigrant lite."



Meanwhile, two speakers from community activist organizations didn't show up, possibly because they were uninvited by the organizers. Later, at a general membership meeting, one attorney demanded that the microphones be turned on in the sessions and that open discussion be permitted, instead of just increasingly top-down dominance by leaders whose only answer is voting.

This year, after years of struggle in the organization, many immigration lawyers protested their leaders' kiss-up approach to the Obama administration. One group voted to demand that the leaders stop begging for crumbs and start fighting harder for better laws.

But fighting for "better" capitalist laws instead of crumbs like prosecutorial discretion cannot help in the long run. This is because the world economic crisis means that the United States and each of its international competitors are fighting each other in a downward spiral in which all workers suffer more, racism increases and the capitalist system can't easily pretend that the government is there to help the people. Liberal misleaders must promise improvements, even as things get worse and people see the truth.

This problem for the rulers was evident in the speeches of the sellout convention leaders. The president-elect admitted her shock that "prosecutorial discretion" increased deportations. She admitted that she was "speechless" and "couldn't explain it" and that "prosecutorial discretion" had turned out to be an "empty promise." She was frozen in her role as sellout liberal leader, like a deer caught in the headlights, because she admitted spending months "giving ICE (the immigration police) a chance" to make prosecutorial discretion help immigrants. But Obama used it to do the opposite. She claimed that Obama would "really really keep his promise" with the new deferred action policy despite his racist lies about prosecutorial discretion throughout last year.

This is important for our class because it shows the weakness and fear that liberal leaders have when their pathetic begging approach cannot deliver. Hundreds of immigration lawyers and millions of immigrants now see that immigration law in the Obama era is filled with empty promises. The so-called "liberal" system can be exposed for what it is — an increasingly fascist engine to increase the threat of deportations and force everyone to work for less, with the undocumented at the bottom.

As workers come to understand this, these liberal leaders can be rejected. Immigrants' and citizens' unity can battle the development of fascism now by mass protesting in the immigration courts, at the detention centers and at the border, in a movement which has the revolutionary destruction of capitalism and its politicians as its goal and the creation of an anti-racist, sharing communist society as the result.

The revolutionary alternative is important to consider right now, because the other alternative is clear: voting or begging the bosses to make their cops be nicer is like asking your prison guard to treat you better in the death camp. If you think it might happen, you may have already lost the fight.

Making AILA fight harder and avoid liberal traps is a long, hard job. The rulers are presently in almost complete control of the organization. One of our weaknesses has been lack of regular work in local chapters to bring more of our political ideas to the members and bring those members closer to PLP. Increasing activity on the chapter level will involve more members in discussing how liberal reformist leadership helped the Obama administration make things worse for immigrants this past year.

Countries' borders are born in capitalist wars with no regard to workers' interests. Whichever capitalist army is stronger decides where the border is. Workers are an international class. We have no borders. PLP's communist answer to the bosses' exploitation of immigrant workers and all workers is: smash all borders!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

U.S. still supports Egypt's tyrants

NYT, 6/19 — Egypt's....military's unwillingness to cede power...has been clear for months. Yet the United States has continued to support the council....

On March 28, 2011, many Egyptians proudly showed off their inked fingers to symbolize participating in a..."road map of transition to civil, democratic rule," as members of the council like to call it.

But that twisted road map was always intended to suppress the Egyptian people's aspirations.... The referendum and the parliamentary and presidential elections have kept the people distracted by the trappings of democracy.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak's regime never ceded power....

...The army's commanders and the government's key ministers have not changed; the Interior Ministry violates human rights as brazenly as ever....Secretary of State Hilary Rodman Clinton's comment last week that "There can be no going back on the democratic transition called for by the Egyptian people" sounded ridiculous.

Despite the army's blatant power grabs, the Obama administration has had no qualms about restoring American military aid, waiving a Congressional requirement that links military assistance to the protection of basic freedoms...[The aim is] to preserve the United States' longtime alliance with Egypt's rulers.

GI suicides outpace battle deaths.

NYT, 6/9 — The suicide rate among the nation's active-duty military personnel has spiked this year, eclipsing the number of troops doing battle....

...Veterans' groups said Friday that the Pentagon had not done enough to moderate the tremendous stress under which combat troops live, including coping with multiple deployments.

It is clear...that these things are not being addressed on a compassionate and understanding basis....

The unemployment rate among military families is a particular problem....

"They are thinking about combat, yeah, but they are also thinking about their wives and kids back home..."

Sport-nationalism fogs real issues

NYT, 6/16 — Every four years...as 16 countries vie for the European soccer championship, fans revel in...nationalistic fervor...."Some people believe football is a matter of life and death," said the Scottish player Bill Shankly...."I can asure you that it is much, much more than that."

Democracy = cut social budgets

NYT, 6/22 — [California] Gov. Jerry Brown and the Democratic-controlled Legislature reached a budget deal on Thursday....

And even more cuts loom on the horizon....

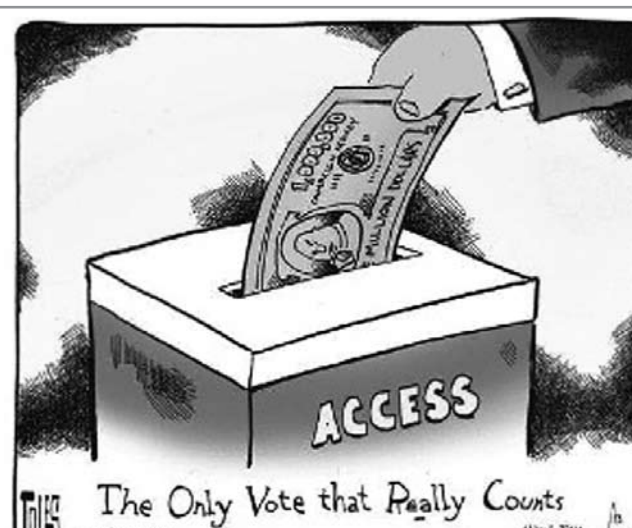
The cuts already in the deal rely on limiting eligibility for welfare and other changes to social services programs. The deal will put a 24-month limit on the state's welfare program, although it allows for some exceptions....It also cuts the number of spaces available in state-subsidized child-care programs....

...If voters reject [Brown's tax] plan, an additional $6 billion will be carved out of the budget next January, primarily from the state's primary and secondary schools and higher education system.

Budget Cuts don't halt aggression

NYT, 6/7 — Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta brushed aside concerns on Wednesday that drone strikes against leaders of Al Qaeda in Pakistan violate that country's soverignty.

"We have made clear to the Pakistanis that the Unites state of America is going to defend ourselves against those who attack us."....Such strikes have influenced Pakistani officials, who have demanded that they end...



Mr. Panetta is near the end of a swing through Asia during which he has promised to enhance the American military's presence in the region despite budget constraints at home...

Brazil: 'largest indigenous tragedy'

NYT, 6/10 — The gunmen emerged from pickup trucks...near this town on Brazil's...frontier....

Witnesses said the men then shot Nisio Gomes, 59, a leader of the indigenous Guaranti people....

...Killings and disappearances of indigenous leaders continue to climb....

The expansion of huge cattle ranches and industrial-scale farms in remote regions has produced a land scramble....Killings are suspected of being related to land battles....

"Dourados [city] is perhaps the largest known indigenous tragedy in the world," said Deborah Duprat, Brazil's deputy attorney general.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Unitarians: 'Tear down Racist Arpaio's Jail'



PHOENIX, ARIZONA, June 23 — About 2,000 people attending the Unitarian convention boarded buses this evening for the 7-mile trip from the Phoenix Convention Center to "Tent City." That's the jail where fascist Maricopa County sheriff Joe Arpaio houses people awaiting trial, including those he hands over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for deportation.

The prisoners, swept up by the sheriff's department that practices racial profiling, are tortured by brutal guards, exposed to extreme heat, insufficient and rotten food, and lack access to sinks, toilets and medical care. Women who go into labor are handcuffed.

The demonstrators, who came to Phoenix from 530 Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations in 50 U.S. states, were among the 3,700 participants in the 2012 UU General Assembly (GA). They stood in 100 °F (38 °C) heat for over two hours to show solidarity with the prisoners.

A 17-year-old member of the youth caucus said that, from her vantage point, she could see 20 or 30 hands reaching out from a narrow window in one of the jail tents. They waved constantly, she said, and we waved back. We could tell they heard us, because when we got louder, they waved faster.

The loudest chant of the evening was "Tear It Down," in response to a speech by Pablo Alvarado of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. At the jail and during a workshop at the GA, Alvarado called for UUs to fight against "the Arpaios in your communities."

In particular, he urged UUs to organize their congregations (and ally with other churches and organizations) to oppose "immigration holds." These are 48-hour periods during which local police keep people in custody who would otherwise be released, because they suspect them of being undocumented. During the hold, an ICE agent shows up to interview the prisoner. As of now, Homeland Security requests that police agencies do these holds, but they are not required to do so, nor do the feds pick up the tab.

Communists are participating in and helping lead these struggles, while we point out that ending racist attacks on immigrants requires a revolution to smash capitalism and the national borders its profit system requires. PLP members and friends, who are active in a number of UU congregations, distributed 940 copies of CHALLENGE at the GA. After receiving a copy of the paper, one delegate to the GA came back and took 20 additional copies to distribute at a workshop.

This "Justice GA" was held in Phoenix to protest Arizona's racist, anti-immigrant law, SB 1070. The Unitarian church, self-described as "progressive" and "liberal," has a long history of participating in movements against war and racism and for civil rights. Like unions, community organizations, and other religious denominations, its leadership is anti-communist, tied to the capitalist system by a thousand political, economic, and ideological threads.

For several decades the UU leadership has been pushing the idea that white people (most UUs are white) are responsible for racism (even though history shows that racism was created by capitalism.) Therefore, they say, in order to unite with blacks and Latinos against racism, white people must undergo training to understand and reject their "white skin privilege."

Furthermore, they say, whites must accept a subservient role in the anti-racist struggle, basically doing what they are told to do by black and Latino leaders. (Of course, if the black and Latino leaders are communists or otherwise don't agree with reformism and non-violence, the UU leaders says whites must NOT follow them.)

At this General Assembly, the UU leadership hired an organization called the Catalyst Project to conduct this training, in workshops "geared toward white people." The workshop leaders deflected calls for multiracial unity against racism, and talked about "dismantling racism," as if that could be accomplished without smashing capitalism with communist revolution. Communists and others, including a group called the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus, pointed out that segregation is segregation; no matter how "progressive" it is made to look.

Most UUs at the GA support — at least for the moment — the "white skin privilege" theory. But, at the congregational level, when it comes to actually fighting against particular aspects of racism, most see that unity is the only way to go. Our job as communists is to involve more people in class struggle and help win them to multiracial unity against capitalism. We will fight alongside our fellow UUs, learning from them, teaching them, and winning them to join the fight for communism.✪

Papal Bull on Slavery

A new wrinkle introduced by the leadership at this Unitarian General Assembly was a resolution to reject the "Doctrine of Discovery (DOD}," at the request of unspecified "partner organizations." The DOD, also known as the "Doctrine of Christian Discovery," was first promulgated by the Catholic Church via a Papal Bull in 1452. The DOD said that when Christian explorers "discovered" lands occupied by non-Christians, they could claim them for their countries, enslave the non-Christians, and seize their property. In 1823 the U.S. Supreme Court cited the DOD in support of seizing lands from Native Americans. Since then, U.S. court decisions have built upon that case.

The DOD is obviously a piece of racist crap, and the delegates voted overwhelmingly to support the resolution, although most had never heard of it prior to coming to the GA. That's unusual in UU circles — more typically, things are studied for a year or more before being accepted or rejected.

The leadership clearly orchestrated things to get this resolution passed right away, for reasons yet to become evident. The resolution certainly came accompanied by language blaming ordinary white Christians for the actions of popes and capitalists, and it diverted people from what was supposed to be the main goal of the Justice GA — to engage more UUs in the struggle to oppose racist attacks on immigrants.

Immigration Lawyers Confront Obama's Racist Scheme

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is the 12,000-member-strong organization of immigration lawyers. Several friends of PLP have been participating for several years in local chapters and at the national conventions, working in a mass professional organization which is led by liberals in the ruling class.

At the 2011 AILA convention, thousands of immigration lawyers were suckered by Obama's top immigration cop's announcement that his Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and attorneys would use "prosecutorial discretion" to stop deportations of non-criminals. Instead, racist round-ups and deportations increased to its highest level yet. Prosecutorial discretion meant that the ICE might be nice in a few instances, but that fascist attacks on immigrants would get worse.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the AILA welcomed prosecutorial discretion and convinced themselves that taking whatever crumbs the government gives is better than fighting back harder against racism. These leaders let Obama publicize his new policies from their convention. Now, after a year of "prosecutorial discretion," it is clear that asking Obama to use more "discretion," means pretending to fight but really just begging for mercy.

This year the same thing is happening again. During the 2012 AILA convention, Obama announced "prosecutorial discretion" to give "deferred action" to younger immigrants. (*See next issue*) "Deferred action" means postponed deportation.

Once again, the immigration lawyers' leaders are acting as if it is a gift from god. But the promise of "deferred action" is dangerous. The young immigrants will have to identify themselves (endangering their relations) and pass a security clearance. Even then, they will only receive a letter saying the government won't try to deport them right away and a work permit for two years. If things work out, they will have a "chance" to join the army and fight in the Middle East. No one knows what will happen if Romney gets elected or if Obama changes his mind. No legal residence or citizenship is included, or even mentioned in the new proposal. The government can still deport each applicant and their families whenever it chooses!

At this year's convention, the sellout past president offered an "open forum" promising urgent

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